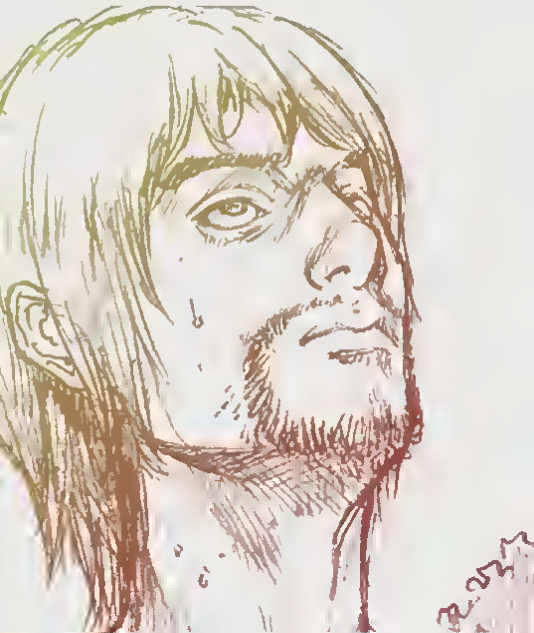
Volume 1
Chapter 2



I GAINED A LOT OF STAMINA AND I'M CONFIDENT I COULD SWIM LONG DISTANCES IF I WANTED TO. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I SHOULD BE ABLE TO KEEP UP WITH A BOAT NOW
I'VE BEEN SWIMMING FOR TWO MONTHS NOW AND I MUST SAY I'VE IMPROVED A LOT
SFX: SPLASH
BY THE WAY, EVER SINCE THE NUN SAW ME NAKED I'VE BEEN PREPARING A SET OF EQUIPMENT THAT COULD HELP ME SURVIVE ENCOUNTERS WITH MONSTERS INSIDE THE CAVE
AH
!!
SFX: THUD
0: BAMBOO SPEAR (MADE IT FROM A BAMBOO I FOUND!mm)
1: POT LID (STOLE IT FROM SANCHO'S HOUSE!mm)
2: HAIR BAND (FOUND IT LYING ON THE GROUND!mm)
3: BOXER SHORTS (HAS SANCHO'S NAME SEWN ON IT)
BOO YEAH
EEEEP
I GOT BUSTED FOR A SECOND TIME. THANK YOU VERY MUCH

BUT I'M JUST A HIRED GUARD, Y'KNOW? I'M NOT THE ONE TO DECIDE SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
IF THIS WAS MY VILLAGE, I'D HAVE THROWN YOU OUT BY NOW, Y KNOW?
LOOK, MAN, AREN'T YOU TOO OLD TO BE DOING STUFF LIKE THAT?
THE OLD GATE GUARD TRIED TO TALK SOME SENSE INTO ME WITH A PITYING LOOK ON HIS FACE
I WASN'T TRYING TO GIVE ANYONE A SCARE, BUT I SUPPOSE I MUST'VE LOOKED LIKE A PERVERT
IT TOTALLY SLIPPED MY MIND BECAUSE HIS BEARD MAKES HIM LOOK OLDER THAN HE IS...
THE SAD THING ABOUT GETTING CHEWED OUT BY HIM IS THAT HE HAPPENS TO BE YOUNGER THAN ME... OTL
SFX: SMELL
IT SMELLS!!
UGH!!
THIS IS THE LAST TIME THOUGH, OLD MAN!
THANK YOU
THE GATE GUARD GAVE ME HIS OLD LEATHER ARMOR AND HAT WHEN HE LET ME GO
WITH THIS, I SHOULD BE ABLE TO FEND OFF A HORNED RABBIT, AT LEAST
THEY SMELL KINDA FISHY, BUT I'M GRATEFUL NONETHELESS

I WONDER WHAT HAPPENED TO HIM...
BUT THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF PAPAS RETURNING
SEVERAL WEEKS HAVE ALREADY PASSED SINCE PAPAS HEADED FOR REINHART
I ASKED SANCHO TOO, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW EITHER
I ASKED THE GATE GUARD, BUT HE DIDN'T KNOW
. OH GEE I HOPE HE COMES BACK SOON 'CAUSE I'M SLOWLY GETTING SICK OF SWIMMING
I'VE BEEN SWIMMING EVERYDAY FOR MORE THAN TWO MONTHS NOW..

...
...
...!!
THERE'S A COMMOTION IN THE VILLAGE TODAY
"PAPAS HAS GONE MISSING AND CAN'T BE FOUND ANYWHERE"
I ASKED SANCHO NEXT TO ME WHAT HAPPENED AND HE SAYS
SFX: GUN GUN GUN
WAIT, THAT MEANS MY GOAL AND AMBITION HAVE GONE MISSING WITH HIM!!
I STARTED PREPARING A BONFIRE AGAIN – ON A WARM EARLY SUMMER DAY
.....
STRUCK BY THE DEVASTATING NEWS—
IT SEEMS IT'S NOT JUST PAPAS WHO HAS DISSAPEARED EITHER, BUT PURPLE AND THE KING OF REINHART TOO... WHICH REMINDS ME, THE OTHER VILLAGERS WERE TALKING ABOUT DEMONS THAT KIDNAP KIDS AND DO NASTY THINGS TO THEM... WELL, I COULDN'T CARE LESS ABOUT ALL THAT

BUT IT'S NOT LIKE I'M SAD OR SOMETHING
I'D JUST LOST THE FIRST GOAL I HAD SET FOR MYSELF IN MORE THAN TEN YEARS
SIGH...
I'VE JUST RETURNED TO THE DAYS OF TENDING TO A BONFIRE, DISREGARDING TIME OF DAY OR SEASON; IS ALL.
SFX: CRACKLE CRACKLE
IT'S NOT LIKE ANYTHING HAS REALLY CHANGED, HAS IT...?
SFX: THUD THUD
WHEN I SAW THAT...
WHEN HE LEFT THE VILLAGE, SANCHO HAD A LOOK ON HIS FACE AS IF THE WORLD WAS ABOUT TO END
SANCHO LEFT THE VILLAGE TODAY
IS WHAT CROSSED MY MIND I DON'T KNOW HOW, BUT I JUST KNEW
PAPAS ISN'T GOING TO COME BACK, HUH. THAT MEANS, PURPLE ISN'T GOING TO EITHER
I HEAR HE'S GOING BACK TO HIS HOME TOWN

SFX: CHIRPING OF CICADAS
SUMMER IS IN FULL SWING NOW
YOU KNOW, WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT, A BONFIRE IN SUMMER IS JUST A NORMAL CAMPFIRE, ISN'T IT?
BUT I'M HAVING A BONFIRE LIKE IT'S WINTER
SFX: CRACKLE
PLUS, IT'S SO DAMN HOT IT'S LIKE SOMEONE'S PRACTICING HIS FIREBAL SPELL RIGHT NEXT TO ME ...
THE CICADAS IN THE NEARBY FOREST ARE LOUD AS HELL
I FIND IT HARDER, JUST A LITTLE HARDER, TO GET EXCITED ABOUT HAVING A BONFIRE
I DO KNOW ONE THING THOUGH COMPARED TO BEFORE
WHY NOT, YOU ASK? WHO KNOWS? I DON'T
AND DESPITE IT ALL, I DON'T FEEL LESS GOING FOR A SWIM IN THE RIVER AT ALL.

A BUNCH OF BAD RUMORS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATING AROUND THE VILLAGE LATELY
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF SUMMER NOW
EVEN I CAN TELL THAT THE VILLAGE ATMOSPHERE IS GETTING GLOOMIER WITH EVERY NEW RUMOR
AND THAT EVEN TINY VILLAGES LIKE OURS ARE GOING TO GET TARGETED BY THE DEMON LORD SOON
THEY SAY THE TROOPS OF A DEMON LORD HAVE BEEN TAKING OVER TOWN AFTER TOWN TO INCREASE THEIR POWER
SIGH...
GETTING ATTACKED BY DEMONS AND DYING LIKE A NOBODY IN THIS GOD-FORSAKEN VILLAGE, HUH...?
BUT IT'S NOTHING COMPARED TO HOW GLOOMY I'VE BEEN IN THE LAST FEW WEEKS
IT MAY BE A FITTING WAY TO DIE FOR SOMEONE AS WORTHLESS AS ME, ACTUALLY
HEH

ONE DAY, I WAS THROWING STUFF INTO THE FIRE LIKE I ALWAYS DO...
GAHHH HHHH!!
EEP!!
WHEN SUDDENLY SCREAMS PIERCED THE AIR
SFX: RUSTLE
AHHH HHH!!
..?
I HEADED TO THE DIRECTION OF THE SCREAMS...
ONLY TO FIND THE GATE GUARD DEAD
SFX: RUSTLE
SFX: ...AHH
RUN FOR YOUR LIVES!!!!
EEEE EEK!!

HOOH HOHOHO
WHAT I SAW THERE ...
TO THINK THAT IT WAS IN A PLACE LIKE THIS... I'VE LOOKED EVERYWHERE. YOU KNOW?
WAS DEATH ITSELF

GAHH HHH!!
OH WELL... ORDERS ARE ORDERS, ESPECIALLY WHEN THEY COME FROM HIM...
I'M NOT SURPRISED, BUT I DIDN'T THINK IT'D BE THIS PUNY AND PITIFUL. I ALMOST FEEL BAD FOR WHAT WE'RE ABOUT TO DO...
SFX: PAKOOSH
SFX: SHUDDER
YOU'RE ALL GOING TO BE KILLED NOW
HUUU UUAAAA AAGHH
BLEEE EEAAAA AARGH
SFX: SPLISH
THE SIGHT OF THE GUARD'S CORPSE MADE ME PUKE MY GUTS OUT
OVER-WHELMED BY FEAR, I PEED MYSELF AND AT THE SAME TIME—
SFX: DRIP DRIP DRIP
SFX: SSSSHHHH

SFX: PUNCH
UHH...
AFTER I'D VOMITED, I QUICKLY REGAINED MY SENSES
SFX: SPLISH
SFX: THUD
I... I'M GONNA GET KILLED!!!!
I GOTTA RUN!!!
EE...
UH
AH...
AND I RAN I RAN WITH ALL I HAD
AHHH HHHHH HHHHH HHHHH
"I GOTTA RUN..." IS THE ONLY THOUGHT THAT WENT THROUGH MY MIND
AHHH HHHHH HHHHH HHHHH
SFX: DASH
I DIDN'T WANT TO DIE
EE
EEK!!

SETTING FIRE TO FIREWOOD EVERYDAY IS ALL I'VE EVER DONE SO FAR
I'M A 30-YEAR-OLD UNEMPLOYED SINGLE MAN LIVING IN A PUNY, PITIFUL VILLAGE, WITH NO DREAMS, AMBITIONS OR ANYTHING TO LIVE FOR
EEK
...WAIT, DID I REALLY JUST THINK THAT?
EEK
THERE'S STILL SO MUCH I WANNA DO IN LIFE! I DON'T WANNA DIE YET!
SFX THUNK
EVEN AS I RAN AS QUICKLY AS I COULD, WITH MY LUNGS BURNING AND DRIBBLE DRIPPING FROM MY MOUTH, I WAS SOME-HOW ABLE TO QUESTION MY OWN THOUGHTS CALMLY

SFX: SLIDE SLIDE SLIDE
UGH
"NO DREAMS? NO AMBITIONS?" ...ONLY BECAUSE I NEVER TRIED TO HAVE ANY
I NEVER TRIED TO DO ANYTHING WITH MY LIFE
SFX: THUMP
AH MY FOOT
!!!!
INSTEAD, I WATCHED THE DAYS GO BY AND LET EVERY CHANCE TO CHANGE IT SLIP THROUGH MY FINGERS
SFX: THUD
I DON'T DESERVE TO BEG FOR MY LIFE NOW
I JUST LOVE THE LOOK IN THE EYES OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE LOST ALL HOPE...
COME ON RUN AWAY QUICKLY OR YOU'LL BE THE NEXT TO DIE!!
HO HO HO HO HO
TIME TO DIE A MISERABLE DEATH LIKE THE GUARD... IT REALLY IS A FITTING END FOR SOMEONE AS WORTHLESS AS ME...
HUHH
HUHH
...
IT'S TIME TO DIE...

SFX: ROARRR
OH MY? ARE YOU NOT GOING TO RUN ANYMORE? YOU BORE ME .
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
IN THAT CASE
HUFF
HUFF
I GOT VOMIT ON MY TUNIC AND MY PANTS ARE WET WITH PISS
I BET I LOOK REALLY LAME RIGHT NOW
MY FACE IS PROBABLY DISTORTED WITH PAIN TOO SINCE I STARTED RUNNING SO SUDDENLY MY LUNGS COULDN'T KEEP UP

HMM YOU'RE NO FUN AT ALL
HUFF
SFX: SMASH
EEK!!
SFX: WHAM
SFX: PEW
THE OWNER OF THE INN!!
SFX: ROAAERR
EEEEA AAHHHH HHHHHH HHHHHH HHHHH
EEK!!
SFX: RUMBLE

SFX: PH DAM
SFX: GRAB
SFX: THU
MY BODY WON'T MOVE...!!?
YOU LEAVE ME WITH NO CHOICE, YOU KNOW THAT...?
I CAN'T HAVE YOU BECOMING DEFIANT ON ME NOW
SFX: PH SH
AHHH HHHH HHHH HHHH HH!!!
EEEE EEEP
!!?
NOW BE A GOOD BOY AND WATCH MY SHOW FROM THERE!!!

NOO OOOO OOOO OOO
UGHH HHHH
GOD IN HEAVEN !!!!!
MR. PAPAS !!
SAVE US!!!
IT'S THE VILLAGERS!!!
BLAZE MOST

SFX: KA-BOOM

HERE!! TAKE THIS! I'VE MADE TOO MUCH TODAY, SO YOU CAN HAVE IT!!
SUCH A TROUBLING MAN YOU ARE... WHY DON'T YOU WORK INSTEAD OF HAVING A BONFIRE ALL THE TIME!!
MAN, YOU'RE A LIFESAVER. YOU SURE KNOW YOUR STUFF WHEN IT COMES TO MAKING FIRE!
YOU'VE GOT TO TEACH ME HOW TO SWIM SOMETIME!! I SINK LIKE A ROCK IN WATER!
LOOK, I'LL LET YOU GO THIS TIME, BUT NOT FOR FREE.
I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHAT WAS HAPPENING NO, I OUGHT TO SAY MY BRAIN WAS REFUSING TO ACCEPT IT
WITH THE VILLAGERS BURNING TO CRISP IN FRONT OF MY EYES
I PASSED OUT
AND THE SMELL OF BURNING FLESH IN MY NOSE

Appendix:

Characters in chapter 2:

Baki

Papas (Pankraz)

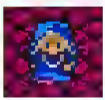
Purple (The Hera)

Sancha

Gema (Ladja)

Gate guard

Nun



Owner af the inn

Mansters in chapter 2:

Izlor (Hyperpyrexion)

Lacatians in chapter 2:

- Santo Rosa (Whealbrook)

Spells in chapter 2:

- Firebal (Sizz)
- Blazemost (Kafrizzle)